

enneagram monthly

February 2019

Issue 243

EM Moved & Two 25th Anniversaries...

The *Enneagram Monthly* (EM) was conceived during the Stanford Enneagram conference in 1994. My partner **Andrea Isaacs** went to the conference while I stayed in Upstate New York minding our office and pets, getting daily detailed briefings from Stanford. The theme for a need to start an “*International Enneagram Association*” (IEA) came up, and as it happened, **Don Riso** already had that domain name (along with *Enneagram Institute* and sev-

Jack Labanauskas

eral others) and Don generously agreed to donate it. The expectations and mood among the 1500 or so enneagram aficionados attending the Stanford conference 25 years ago was high and gave rise to plans for future projects. The shared desire was to create something to keep enneagrammers informed, stay connected to each

other and find ways to exchange information. So far so good. A decision was made to create a publication (remember, these were the pre-internet days and long distance phone calls expensive) to serve the community as a whole. Up to that point only some teachers or schools sent newsletters to their students, and there was a nice quarterly *The Enneagram Educator* edited by **Clarence Thomson**, a few published books and workshops ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Enneatype One: A Study in Self-Criticism

Thomas Garrett Isham

“*I think, therefore I am.*” René Descartes

“*I criticize, therefore I am.*” Tom Isham

I’ve been brooding on my enneatype since 1984. After thirty-four years of self-scrutiny, can I honestly say it has done me good? Can I say, for example, that I have integrated the elements of my personality into a more coherent whole? Have I transcended my fixations and activated my essence? Have I become a better person—even by a little bit?

I recently suggested in these pages that the enneagram helps one to attain a “new identity,” to realize a new or “redeemed” self, a self capable of transcending the ego and viewing one’s personality in a new light. It’s all about becoming a person who sees himself or herself in a modified perspective marked by objectivity and empathy.

So has it happened to me? After decades of interior exploration, has a discernable alteration in outlook or behavior presented itself? It is past time to attempt a self-evaluation, to see where I stand as viewed through the lens of the enneagram. In doing this, I may kindle a like resolve in others, thus serving as a catalyst to their own self-examination.

Of course, one steeped in the enneagram is always self-evaluating but in this case I take the “long view.” Daily or weekly evaluation is important but by definition it does not measure long term trends; it sees the trees but not the forest. Hence it’s past time to stand back and take stock of a ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

The Romantic: (Type Four) in Relationship

Jennifer P. Schneider M.D. & Ron Corn M.S.W.

Here is another chapter from our reference book, *Understand Yourself, Understand Your Partner: The Essential Enneagram Guide to a Better Relationship*.

Probably my best features in relationship are my romantic nature and my eye for beauty. To me, relationships symbolize a meeting of the hearts, and having an emotional connection with a beloved can have a sacred quality about it—especially if the relationship includes an honest, authentic expression of feelings. I know that the possibility of love brings the possibility of rejection and abandonment, so I am sometimes guilty of preemption. Then, once the other person moves away from me, he or she again becomes attractive to me. Some people say that I am never truly satisfied in relationship, that I focus too much on what is missing, and that I ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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In this Issue:

“We Moved & Two 25th Anniversaries...” makes 2019 a “silver” anniversary for the *Enneagram Monthly* (EM) and for the *International Enneagram Association* (IEA).

The 9 traditional elements associated with major anniversaries of life’s events (according to Wikipedia) are: Wooden (5th), Tin (10th), Crystal (15th), China (20th), **Silver (25th)**, Pearl (30th), Ruby (40th), Golden (50th), and Diamond (60th). Hmm... the number nine is cropping up in all sorts of places...must be of special significance...

For us at the EM this 25 year Silver anniversary also includes a major move. The laws of nature demand that everything relative must change and we had the choice to either change focus (we kept that) or else the environment.

Well, we moved from Portola Valley CA to our new home in Pocatello ID .

Finally, as the hubbub of changing environments is simmering down and we can resume publishing. I wonder what changes the IEA will choose to embrace? This next conference will surely step out of line with a possible unexpected shift but we will have to wait until the Oakland conference in July for that surprise. I bet the foundations for that change have already been laid down in the last couple or three months and it promises to be very interesting.

In “Enneatype One: A Study in Self-Criticism” **Thomas Garrett Isham** goes deeply into ways of Ones that are rarely recognized or summed up so well. Ones do not always enjoy the best press, we might say, as they are among the most misunderstood of the nine types. People may interpret the One’s urge to criticize as originating from an arrogant sense of superiority or knowing better what is right. That may be so for young or less developed Ones, but not so for the sophisticated and refined ones who have recognized much about the structure of life, tradition and how the universe works.

Imagine having a profound understanding of life and what is, versus what should (or rather could) be, that is likely to bring improvements – and keep it to yourself? What responsible person with compassion would not want to reach out to save someone from committing catastrophic errors of judgment? Ones are the custodians and protectors of dharma, the right path,...of course they can be annoying to irresponsible libertines who prefer to bend the rules.

Jennifer Schneider M.D. and **Ron Corn, M.S.W.** get into the turbulent and creative as-

From the Editor

pects of “The Romantic (Type Four) in Relationship.” Of course, relationships are a defining area of life for humans. I believe Aristotle called humans zoon politikon or “social animal” as it is through interacting and deep bonding that humanity distinguishes itself from other animals. Of course the freedom to act properly is also the freedom to act badly. The more freedom we have the bigger the range. People who feel deeply are also creative and restless. Just look at the lives of great artists – no lack of drama there. The polarity of yin and yang are well portrayed, described or acted out by Fours who are less afraid than most other types to go deep, to the point of recklessness, often hurting themselves. Particularly so in the field of emotions, Romantics are not just about Cupids flying high with bow and arrow ready; they are also fighting off roiling, dark forces, sucking them down. Love, rejection, abandonment and sense of beauty are the dominant themes.

We can’t get enough of **Michael Damian** who has so much wisdom to offer “From Q&A Sessions with Michael Damian” It is rare to find answers to deep questions that come from an enlightened perspective not contaminated by egoic agendas, and, are expressed in language that is current and immediately meaningful to the reader. We often rely on translations of wisdom ideas from far away in time and space, that are filtered by translators and designed originally for audiences (since pre-writing oral traditions) of a distant past with different issues from what we encounter today. It is also true that we need to hear simple truths again and again from many angles before one of them “clicks” into an “aha.”

Somik Raha in “The Monk, the Butcher and the Incredible Origins of Deep Counting” makes the case that our lives are based on what we count and how we count it. Somik wonders what it would be like if in our lives we were more engaged with counting. The stories are of what is meritorious and leads us into deep counting facilitating meaningful experiences. If we learn to understand how to make early distinctions, as in “a stitch in time” we will be empowered to make finer distinctions about how to live within a community, while pursuing a larger, more meaningful truth.

People will always search for deeper answers once the superficial expectations and attainments

reveal themselves as insufficient to give a more lasting sense of completeness. Such a search is often surprising as we find answers in areas we least expect them and were less oriented by our bias .

F. Oliver Nicklin draws a clear diagram of “Identifying the Enneagram in the Book of Revelations” as it was revealed by George I. Gurdjieff and based on the outline of his student Pyotr D. Ouspensky in his *In Search of the Miraculous*.

Enneagrammers have encountered mentions of the laws of 3 and of 7 quite frequently. But such mentions are not often well explained by the authors – as if the reader was expected to instinctively know what exactly is meant and need no further explanation. Maybe, it’s likely that an author was unsure of how best to describe these laws and chose to gloss over it leaving the reader to fend for themselves. Like that story of two men meeting in the desert and one draws the enneagram symbol in the sand and the other immediately “gets it.” Speaking only for myself, I’ve been staring at the enneagram for decades and still envy the guy who “got it.”

Oliver has gotten it and puts precision and image in a laconic no-nonsense portrayal that will serve as a reminder and illustration of the meaning of the Laws of Three and Seven. Moreover, this short essay demonstrates the connection that existed since time immemorial between the fundamental concepts of the enneagram as already described in the *Book of Revelations* and surely in other ancient scriptures of humanity.

Mark Bodnarczuk has some points to make about “Shortcuts to Psychological Growth” by taking various aspects of our nature under a magnifying lens for a better view. He starts with defining what we mean by psychological growth as it can mean many things to different people. Then moves on into three major driving forces that exercise influence over practically everything we are and do.

The *unintended consequences* first and foremost, as they can and will come back to bite us... Then our *defense mechanisms* that are not the best judges in what we need to defend from and what is a better alternative. And finally the *unconscious perspective* that Mark describes in Jungian terms as: Fringe of consciousness experiences where ideas, insights, thoughts, emotions, and motivations just seem to pop into our head and Dreams that penetrate into consciousness.

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Index by Author and Subject and lots more

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Volume 25, Number 1, Issue 243

Enneagram Monthly

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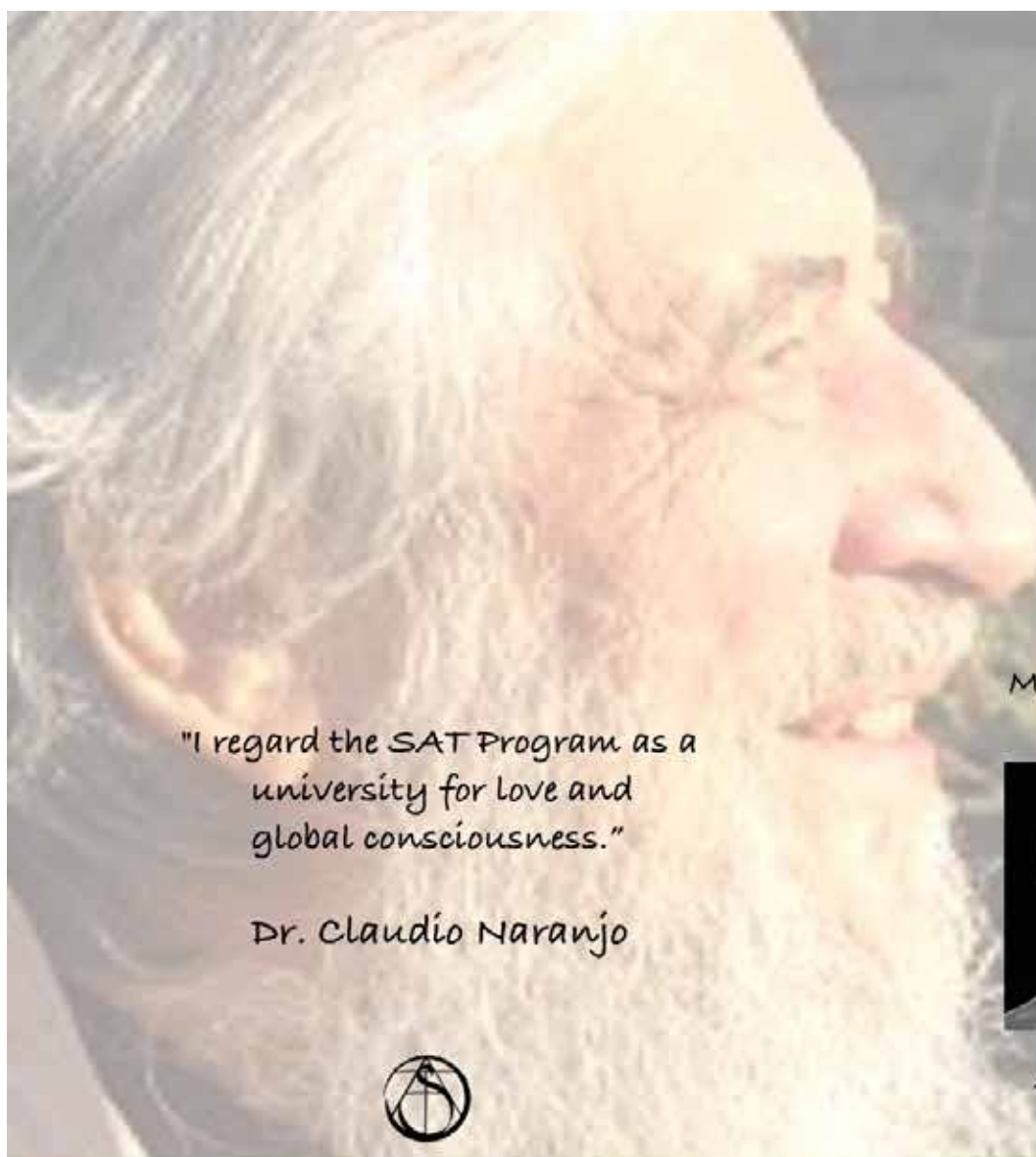
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The Enneagram Monthly, Inc. was founded by Jack Labanauskas and Andrea Isaacs as a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to gather and disseminate information in the field of the Enneagram, that is most commonly known as a personality typing system.

For subscription and advertising rates see back cover.

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SAT 1


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TO
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